



ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Seoul Bureau

OPM-11-5
STAT-

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

Chief, Operations Group

DATE

June 1988

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

C/Ops

22 JUL 1988

PR
g

2.

3.

C/E&PS

7/16

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DD/FBIS

26 Jul

B

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Exec. Reg.



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU



7 July 1988
FBIS-5614-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Seoul Bureau -- June 1988

I. GENERAL

A. The student demonstrations in the Republic continued through the month of June, with much of the major activity occurring in the period leading up to the proposed 10 June meeting between students from the North and South at Panmunjom. Although anti-U.S. slogans continued to be a leading theme of the demonstrations, action against U.S. facilities and personnel were limited to an attack by three students on the USIS center in Taegu and an attempt by a group of students to enter the main U.S. Army facility at Yongsan to request permission from the UN Command to enter the Joint Security Area at Panmunjom on the tenth. The constant irritation of tear gas and the other disruptions caused by the students has caused a backlash among some citizens of the Republic as there were reports of clashes between ordinary citizens and student demonstrators in Incheon. Coincidentally with the end of the current school term and perhaps as an indication that the students have realized the ill will their actions were provoking, the number of incidents dropped after the middle of the month.

B. With the installation of a Victor VPCII as a transmit device on 29 June, the Bureau has left the paper tape era. Now all press agency material, which had been satrapped, as well as all other items are transmitted by floppy disk. The change has left the Bureau with spare satrap machines and Extel punching stations and with a shortage of computers, which headquarters has promised to remedy.

C. The medical retirement of Korean unit chief [redacted] and the acceptance of job offers by two monitorial candidates has put the Bureau on course to bring the Korean unit up to full T/O and finally relieve some of the stress on the unit. The necessary training period for the new monitors means that the unit will still be faced with processing constraints for the near term.

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II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. The student demonstrations continued to provide much high precedence material from all of the Bureau's monitored Korean sources. Volume was the heaviest on 10 June, the day set for student talks. The independent Christian Broadcasting System Network radio was put on open speaker watch on that day along with the usual coverage of Pyongyang Domestic Service and Seoul Domestic Service, providing timely updates of the day's activities. Pyongyang was particularly productive, with hourly updates of the situation at Panmunjom, but equipment problems, since resolved, prevented the Bureau from providing any Pyongyang television coverage of the events on the day for the talks. Pyongyang television has since obliged by filling the gap with the 23 June broadcast of a documentary on the events, a copy of which was provided to local military consumers and to headquarters.

2. With the growth of sentiment favoring reunification in the South and the uncertainty about the North's intentions regarding the Olympics, the Bureau has been paying close attention to the clandestine Voice of National Salvation (VNS). AG has requested that the Bureau give precedence to processing of VNS material and the volume of processed items has increased to nearly double the year's previous high despite continued jamming of the transmitter.

B. Communications

1. The Frederick 1403a paper tape reader was replaced by a Victor PCII as a transmit device on 29 June, ending the need for punching and storage of paper tape, except in cases of primary circuit outages when the telex backup is used. Fortunately the Bureau was prepared for this changeover as a result of previous experiments with and refinement of software to capture press agency material on computer diskette. Compatibility problems between the PC transmit station and the Embassy modem used to transmit Bureau traffic were resolved by Bureau technicians who rigged a device to create a mirror image of the transmission signal to make it compatible with the modem.

2. An enhanced version of the Procomm software for the international direct dial (IDD) backup circuit, version 2.4.2, was received from headquarters and successfully installed. In-house tests have been conducted and the Bureau awaits word of receipt of the software at Okinawa Bureau to conduct further tests of the system.

C. Lateral Services

1. The Bureau completed a 3-month project of filing updates on the won-dollar exchange rate, done at the request of a headquarters consumer. LRB conveyed the gratitude of the consumer and added its appreciation for the "spirit of cooperation" shown by the Bureau.

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2. The Bureau conveyed requests for analysis of personnel changes in North Korea and North Korean propaganda concerning the student demonstrations from the Ambassador to AG. The responses from AG were passed on to the Ambassador and to other local consumers. //

3. The antenna refurbishment at Okinawa Bureau was completed during the month ending the need for Seoul Bureau to record four Soviet regional radios for the BBC.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Korean unit chief [] was granted medical retirement after it was determined that he would not be able to return to work following an operation and a lengthy period of recuperation. STAT

2. [] accepted offers to fill the openings in the Korean unit. STAT

3. Bureau administrative assistant [] was promoted to GS-7. STAT

4. Editorial trainee [] received an Exceptional Accomplishment Award for sustained superior performance during the changes involved during the Headquarters move to Reston. STAT

5. Editors [] and administrative assistant [] all completed the 16-hour emergency medical safehaven training course conducted by a State Department mobile training team. [] also completed the 16-hour personal protection course conducted by the team. STAT
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IV. VISITS

[] D/Chief FED, and [] LEC contractors, visited the Bureau from 27 June to 1 July to conduct a preliminary survey for field bureau automation and to help install a Victor VPCII transmit workstation and related transmit software. STAT
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[]
Chief, Seoul Bureau

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau